

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A brass-wind instrument comprising:
  - a mouthpiece;
  - a lead pipe in fluid communication with said mouthpiece;
  - a monoblock valve body in fluid communication with said lead pipe further comprising a plurality of valve chambers;
  - a plurality of valves dispersed in said valve chambers;
  - a plurality of elongation tubes in fluid communication with said monoblock valve body to elongate an air column therein;
  - an exit tube; and
  - a bell in fluid communication with said exit tube.
2. (Previously presented) The brass-wind instrument of claim 1 wherein each valve comprises an unimpeded air channel.
3. (Previously presented) The brass-wind instrument of claim 1, wherein each elongation tube interfaces with said monobody valve block at an angle substantially perpendicular to the axis of said valve chamber.
4. (Previously presented) The brass-wind instrument of claim 1 wherein said mouthpiece receiver is gapless.

5. (Previously presented) The brass-wind instrument of claim 4, wherein said gapless mouthpiece comprises a negatively shaped conical shank.

6. (Previously presented) The brass-wind instrument of claim 5, wherein said negatively shaped conical shank comprises an inner diameter equal to the inner diameter of the entrance to said leadpipe.

7. (Previously presented) The brass-wind instrument of claim 6, wherein said leadpipe has a positive conical shape.

8. (Currently amended) The brass-wind instrument of claim 1, wherein the valve channel in said monobody valve block further comprises valve ~~guide~~ guides.

9. (Previously presented) The brass-wind instrument of claim 1, wherein said monobody valve block comprises a threaded region at the top of each valve cylinder to complementarily receive a valve cap.

10. (Previously presented) The brass-wind instrument of claim 1, wherein said monobody valve block comprises a threaded region at the bottom of each valve cylinder to complementarily receive a cap to manage lubricant run-off from the valve.

11. (Withdrawn) ~~A gapless mouthpiece comprising a cylinder having a bell-shaped first end and a negative conically shaped shank comprising a second end, wherein said second end is received in a lead pipe of a brass-wind instrument.~~

12. (Withdrawn) ~~The gapless mouthpiece of claim 11 wherein the inner diameter of said second end has a smallest dimension equal to the inner diameter of said lead pipe.~~

13. (Previously presented) A monoblock valve body for a musical instrument comprising: a single piece body further comprising a plurality of valve cylinders for receiving

valves and a plurality of ports and interfaces in fluid communication with said valve cylinder, wherein said ports and interfaces are substantially perpendicular to the axis of said valve cylinder.

14. (Currently amended) The monoblock valve body of claim 13, wherein said ~~parts~~ ports are in further fluid communication with tubes.

15. (Previously presented) The monoblock valve body of claim 14, wherein said tubes comprise a lead pipe, a plurality of elongation tubes, and an exit tube.

16. (Previously presented) The monoblock valve body of claim 13, wherein said interfaces provide fluid communication between valves.

17. (Previously presented) The monoblock valve body of claim 13, wherein said valves are unimpeded.

18. (Previously presented) The monoblock valve body of claim 13, wherein said valves further comprise valve guides.

19. (Previously presented) The monoblock valve body of claim 13, wherein at least one valve casing further comprises a threaded region at the top portion of said valve casing to retain a valve piston.

20. (Previously presented) The monoblock valve body of claim 13, wherein at least one valve casing further comprises a threaded region at the top portion of said valve casing to receive a valve cover.

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Amendment and Response

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Applicant believe that all claims are in condition for allowance. Nevertheless, Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if it is believed that a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the application to an allowance. In view of the foregoing Amendments, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jon M. Gibbs

Registration No. 47,594

**AKERMAN SENTERFITT**

Post Office Box 230

Orlando, FL 32801-0230

Telephone: (407) 423-4000